

HA-1478

c. 1884

Dean-McComas House
545 Rock Spring
Bel Air
private

With its dormers and handsome neo-classical front porch, this house has a colonial revival look. Actually it is the oldest house on the west side of Rock Spring. Around 1884 James Dean bought this lot and one on either side. After he built this house, he sold off portions of the lot. The dormers, front porch and the outside end chimney on the south elevation are all 20th century additions.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

James Dean House

AND/OR COMMON

Emory McComas House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

545 Rock Spring

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Helen St. Coeur

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

545 Rock Spring

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 896

Folio #: 344

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

57-473

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three bay, L-shaped frame house is at 545 Rock Spring Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is shiplap sided and has a slate gable roof. An outside end chimney on the south elevation may be 20th century. Outside end chimneys are uncommon in Town. The neo-classical front porch is probably 20th century (see #8). It has a rolled tin hip roof carried on slender doric columns and a gable topped projecting center bay. The slender balusters form a railing which extends to the projecting bay. A pair of slate-sided, shed-roofed dormers break the front (west) roof-line over the north and south bays. They each have a pair of casement windows. The windows in the front elevation are pairs of 1/1 except for a single one in the center bay over the entrance. Other windows are single 1/1. The south elevation is blind save for a four pane casement west of the chimney. The north elevation of the main block has a flat roofed hexagonal bay window in it. East of that is a two bay back building with a chimney in the east end.

Major windows have wooden louvered shutters; each of the double windows on the second story front (west) has a pair of shutters, which causes the center shutters to project.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This three bay house probably acquired its neo-classical front porch after 1902; it is just like the one on the McAbee House (210 E. Broadway), and that one was built in 1910. The shed dormers were probably added at the same time. Otherwise it is a conventional house, plainer than usual because it does not have the ubiquitous front gable, and plainer than usual for Rock Spring.

It was built around 1884 by James Dean on land he bought from George Daugherty and Stevenson Archer that year (50/400). He paid \$2500 for a larger lot and then in 1888 sold two parcels off. James Dean left the property to Hannah Dean who sold it to Julia W. Hanway (Mrs. Edward) in 1902 for \$1400 (104/143). It was probably after Mrs. Hanway bought the property that the present front porch was added. After the equity case Julia W. Hanway vs. Elizabeth H. Poe et al, the property was sold to Emory McComas for \$2000 (142/316). McComas had, with his brother, M. Stanley, founded McComas Brother's Lumber and Building Supplies Co. in 1907. He died in 1937 and Mary McComas bought this and other property in 1941 (269/380) after a lawsuit. She sold the house to Donald M. Coomes in 1965 (672/596). He sold it to Elizabeth St. Coeur in 1972 (896/344). The present owner is Mrs. Helen St. Coeur.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #173 in the Town of Bel Air.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

11 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE: 545 Rock Spring

896/344 1 May 1972
Donald M. Coomes & Mary
 to
Elizabeth St. Coeur

672/596 8 April 1965
Mary B. McComas, widow
 to
Donald M. Coomes & Mary

269/380 3 December 1941
Charles J. Kunkel & Charles H.
McComas
 to
Mary B. McComas
equity case Mary McComas vs Charles
McComas
\$12,000 three parcels - this is #2

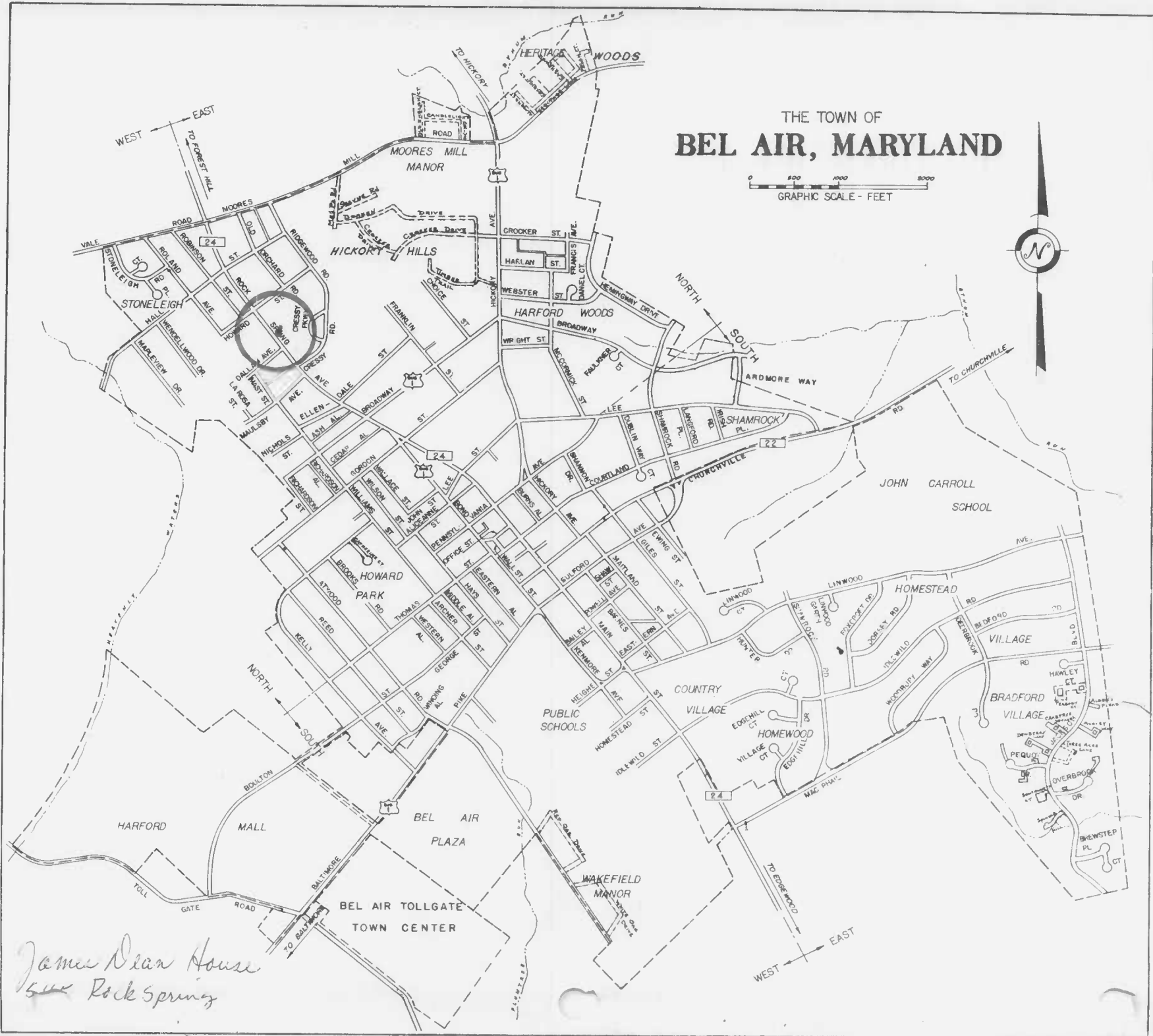
142/316 24 November 1913
J. Edwin Webster, trustee
 to
Emory A. McComas
\$2000
Webster was trustee in Julia W.
Hanway vs. Elizabeth H. Poe et al
"premises lately occupies by Julia Hanway"

104/143 24 March 1902
Hannah A. Dean
 to
Julia W. Hanway (Mrs. Edward)
\$1400
land left to Hannah by James Dean

50/400 12 July 1884
George Daugherty & Stevenson Archer
 to
James Dean
\$2500
a larger parcel. Dean sold off parcels
to the north and south of his house

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000 2000
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



LA-1478 James Dean House
500 Rock Spring



Center:

HA-1478

Dean - McComas House, 545 Rock Spring, Bel Air
w + s. cl.

M. Larew, 1979



